

“The Kingdom of God is...righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” (Romans 14:17)

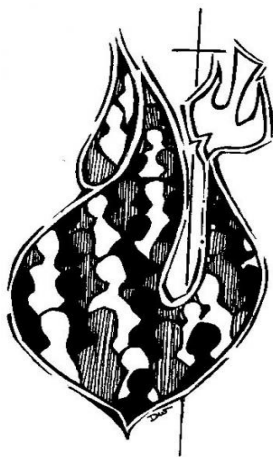
JOY IN THE SPIRIT

**A RESOURCE FOR PARENT LEADERS FOR “YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES”
IN THE PARISH OF CLONARD**

The Story of Pentecost

When the time for Pentecost was fulfilled, the disciples were all in one place together. And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.

Now there were devout Jews from every nation under heaven staying in Jerusalem. At this sound, they gathered in a large crowd, but they were con-



fused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded, and in amazement they asked, ‘Are not all these people who are speaking Galileans? Then how does each of us hear

Acts 2:1-12

them in our own native languages? We are Parthians, Medes, and Elamites, inhabitants of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the districts of Libya near Cyrene, as well as travelers from Rome, both Jews and converts to Judaism, Cretans and Arabs, yet we hear them speaking in our own tongues of the mighty acts of God.’ They were all astounded and bewildered, and said to one another, ‘What does this mean?’

“What does this mean?”

Pentecost, the day when the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples of Jesus, is sometimes called ‘the birth-day of the Church.’ On this day, when the Holy Spirit filled their hearts in a new way, the disciples understood that they had been given a mission. No longer would they linger in the upper room, afraid to be seen in public. From this day forward, they courageously preach the good news that they have heard.

Pentecost continues in Confirmation, when the

bishop, the successor to the apostles, anoints each child, sealing them with the Holy Spirit. From that moment on, that child is a full member of the Church that began at Pentecost. From that moment on, that child is meant to take part in the Church’s mission of bringing the message of Christ—a message of hope and healing and love—to the world.

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit appeared to the disciples in the form of a strong

wind and tongues of fire. While we will not (thank goodness) be lighting the children with actual fire, it is our hope that by the time they reach their Confirmation, their hearts will be set on fire with the love of God.

The “You Shall be My Witnesses” programme is one of our opportunities to set children’s hearts on fire with love...and maybe, in the process, we’ll find our own hearts being rekindled as well.

THE SESSIONS OF “YOU SHALL BE MY WITNESSES”

- ◆ Session 1: Belonging
- ◆ Session 2: Believing
- ◆ Session 3: Being
- ◆ Session 4: Becoming
- ◆ Session 5: Beginning Again



GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Understanding

Wisdom

Right Judgment

Knowledge

Courage

Reverence

Wonder and Awe in God’s Presence

An overview of “You Shall Be My Witnesses:”

CONTACT PERSONS:

Clonard Parish Office

Sean Devereux, Chaplain

Sr. Mary Rowsome,
Co-ordinator

Jessica Mannen, Co-ordinator

Session 1: Belonging. *In this session, we get to know the children in our groups. We discuss what it means to belong to any group, and specifically what it means to belong to the Catholic Church.*

Session 2: Believing. *In this session, we encourage the children to talk about the ways they have learned about their faith so far. We review with them the Nicene Creed, which we recite every Sunday at Mass, and which summarises our beliefs as Catholics.*

Session 3: Being. *In this session, we discuss how the gifts of the Spirit, which are given to us in a special way at Confirmation, will be present with us in our lives, helping us make decisions and live as Christians.*

Session 4: Becoming. *In preparation for this session, children will watch the movie “Evan Almighty” in class. The movie makes the point that Acts of Random Kindness are the “ark” that will save the world like Noah’s Ark did. We will discuss with the children how they can perform Acts of Random Kindness to become a witness to God’s love. They will perform their first Act of Random Kindness in the group, writing down compliments for each of their other group members.*

Session 5: Beginning Again. *In this session, which takes place after Confirmation, we present children with certificates and discuss in a large group how Confirmation will affect the rest of our lives.*

A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT:

Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and kindle in us the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and we shall be created, and You shall renew the face of the earth.

O, God, who by the light of the Holy Spirit, did instruct the hearts of the faithful, grant that by the same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and ever enjoy His consolations, Through Christ Our Lord, Amen.



Joy in the Spirit

Being a Parent Leader

It is entirely understandable if you have questions regarding your role as parent leader for “You Shall be My Witnesses.”

Being a role model and answering the many difficult questions regarding faith can be a daunting task. Please know that we at Clonard Church are here to be of assistance to you, and please feel free to contact us at any point with questions or concerns.

If you would like to begin now in preparing yourself for this role, here are a few suggestions:

- Spend some time in prayer regularly. Pray for your own child, and for the children who will be in your small group when the programme begins.
- Attend Mass when you can, and listen to the readings and homily; they might help you answer questions later on!



- Talk to your child about Confirmation; you might learn from them what kinds of questions you’ll be facing later in your small group.
- If you have time to do some reading, “Mere Christianity” by C.S. Lewis gives a wonderful, simple, logical summary of Christian belief.

If one of your causes for concern is that you don’t remember very much of what you learned for your own Confirmation, please

rest assured that you will still make a wonderful leader. Even though we celebrate Confirmation on one particular day, it is really a life-long process. Just like we celebrate a wedding on one day but it is really the beginning of a whole new marriage, Confirmation is just the beginning of a whole new life. Each and every day is an opportunity for us to “confirm” our commitment to God. We make these daily confirmations in the choices we make: how we spend our time, who we are kind to, how we make the world a better place.

Your commitment to serving as a parent leader is, whether you realise it or not, one way that you are living out the commitment you made at your own Confirmation. We cannot say enough how grateful we are for your commitment and for you:

Thank you!